

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO.....

Most Read Write Now students find that with the tutoring help they receive, their lives change for the better – some quite dramatically. Below is an excerpt from an email received from a student who was tutored in 1986! She decided that after 28 years, she wanted to thank Read Write Now and let us know just how much a volunteer tutor had changed her life.

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I had been brought up thinking that I was a slow learner or had neurological problems. I had always thought that I was stupid because I could not spell and was a very weak reader.

Once I had my own children, I didn't want them to grow up like my family had. We were all almost illiterate and even as a child I knew that without a parent's back up the children cannot develop to their true potential. When my little girl started school, the first time she was sick I was too scared to write a sick note. I went to the teacher instead, as I thought that the teachers would be laughing about me not being able to write a note.

In 1986 I started working with a volunteer tutor. My tutor Margret helped me in many ways, above and beyond her role as a tutor. By the next year, I enrolled at Canning College to do upgrade subjects. I soon started doing my TEE and I needed my tutor again. Even though I got the aggregate I needed to get into university, I repeated some of the course as I felt I needed to do more work on English based subjects. Once I started learning I wanted to learn everything! Then I started at Curtin University and eventually doing a 3/4 work load I graduated in 1995 with distinctions in most subjects.

Now I work for a building company and focus a lot of my work hours on presenting tenders. By the way all the tenders I do at work, often 75 plus pages of specific presentation, I win 7 out of 10 - far more than most other companies (of course my boss plays a good part in pricing these as well!)

The two proudest moments of my life were having my children at my graduation, then a few years later them coming to me with too many Mother's Day presents. When I said I didn't need them to spend money on me they remembered and said, "Mum you went back to school so you could help us. Who else would do that? We will spend whatever we want!" They knew that my motivation was my valuable family.

I am now 57 and felt like I wanted to thank you for the new start that changed my life forever. There are so many things in my life that have contributed to the person I am today and you guys played a large part of that. Thank you, and thank you to my husband and my children who have become high earning individuals who, more than money, have become special people who care about people.

I still have self-confidence issues but in the end I would not have made it this far without the dedication and help of your organisation. Thank you, thank you for giving me the courage to grow and develop. Thanks for so much, so much more than you could ever know. Everyone needs someone and you guys gave me that at a very vulnerable time in my life!!!!

Thanks forever, Rosemarie